

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

The Invisible Man

by H.G. Wells

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Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. understand science fiction as a literary genre.
2. explain the setting of the novel.
3. recognize that the point of view from which this novel is written is third person, which allows the story to be presented through the eyes of many characters and that a brief portion of the novel is written entirely in the first person point of view (that of the Invisible Man).
4. summarize the plot of the novel sequentially.
5. define the following themes:
 - how power corrupts
 - the fate of those who are different in society
 - theoretical versus experimental science
6. discuss the interweaving of humor, monstrousness, and violence in this novel.
7. discuss the role of dialect and how it adds to the tone of *The Invisible Man*.
8. discuss the use of formal language in the author's style.
9. define certain vocabulary words according to their context.
10. discuss the part-human, part-monster makeup of the character of the Invisible Man.
11. understand the symbolism of doors, windows, fences, blinds, and curtains in the novel.
12. infer meanings about characters and events when those meanings are not explicitly stated.
13. summarize the types of conflict in this novel.
14. define and cite examples from the text of the following literary terms:

alliteration

dialect

foreshadowing

simile

personification

protagonist

sarcasm

slapstick

conflict

metaphor

setting

point of view

theme

dialect

tone

symbol

flashback

pun

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Questions for Discussion and Essay

1. Why is science fiction is a very popular literary genre?
2. There are many humorous, even slapstick, sequences in *The Invisible Man*. Discuss which one you feel is the most humorous and explain why.
3. Write a short essay about the character of Thomas Marvel, which discusses how much better he is able to function in society than is Griffin, even though Marvel is a tramp.
4. Write a short essay about the differences between the material conveniences of the 1800's as seen in this novel and the material conveniences we have today.
5. Discuss whether the murder of Griffin by the townspeople is an act of perceived self-defense, an act of revenge by them, or an example of mob hysteria.
6. Discuss the themes Wells deals with in the novel.
7. Describe the style Wells uses. How does it contribute to or detract from the story?
8. Find an example of literary terms in the novel and explain how they are used.
9. Analyze the motivation of the Invisible Man throughout the book.

The Invisible Man

Study Guide Student Copy

I. The Strange Man's Arrival

Vocabulary

animation – adding life to

audible – able to be heard

brevity – shortness, conciseness

brooked – tolerated

concisely – quickly

contempt – hatred, dislike

deftly – quickly and skillfully

eloquent – vividly expressive

haggler – an argumentative person; bickerer

hitherto – until that time

impenetrable – unable to be seen through

inscrutable – mysterious

lymphatic – here meaning sluggish

muslin – cotton material

obscured – made unnoticeable

perplexity – confusion

portmanteau – a suitcase, briefcase

resolutely – firmly, with perseverance

scythe – a long, curved, sharp blade attached to a pole and used for cutting down tall grass or plants

sidelights – sidepieces for glasses to block peripheral vision

side-whisker – sideburns

staccato – in an abrupt way, quick

stateliness – dignity

swathed – wrapped

tangent – a thought or action unrelated to the current though process or situation

1. Describe some of the actions and appearance of the stranger upon arrival at the Coach and Horses.

V. The Burglary at the Vicarage

Vocabulary

conviction – a strong belief

guttering – burning out

kindred – similar

tread – a footstep

vicarage – a priest's residence

1. How does the author build suspense about what is wrong with the stranger? This stranger is invisible, so there is no wondering on the reader's part.

2. During the burglary, the Buntings could hear things indicating someone was in the Vicarage, that a candle had been lit, and money in a drawer was gone. What conclusion can be drawn from this chapter?

X. Mr. Marvel's Visit to Iping

Vocabulary

agitation – nervousness

alacrity – eagerness

apprising – advising

askew – crooked

belied – contradicted, opposed

bowler hats – round, black hats with narrow brims

bunting – colorful cloth or draping material used as decoration

braces – suspenders

curate – a clergyman in charge of a parish

furtive – sneaky

impregnable – unable to be attacked or overcome

inadvertently – accidentally

inconceivable – unable to be fully understood

induce – to persuade

jasmine – a very aromatic flowering shrub

languid – weak, without energy

mottled – blotched, spotted

perceptions – judgments; ideas

promenading – walking; dancing

qualms – misgivings, doubts

roundabout – a carousel, merry-go-round

scepticism – [*skepticism*] doubtfulness

subsequent – later, succeeding

supposition – a guess

transcending – exceeding, surpassing

1. What is going on in the village on the afternoon of Whit-Monday?

2. What happens to Mr. Huxter, the tobacconist?

XX. At the House in Great Portland Street

Vocabulary

acute – sharp-minded
apathetic – without feeling
attainment – achievement
attenuated – weakened
barracks – temporary housing, especially for soldiers
cant – a custom
cistern – a vat for holding water
commercialism – profit-making
compass – to comprehend
costermonger – a person who sells vegetables, fruits, and other food articles from a wagon or cart
countenance – a face
desecrated – spoiled, misused
disreputable – having a bad reputation
drink-sodden –drunken
dynamos – generators; machines that create energy
elation – joy
ethereal – delicate
feverishly – intensely emotional or nervous
garbled – mumbled
gaunt – thin, lanky
ghastly – horrible
impunity – freedom, exemption from
inanity – foolishness, senselessness
inarticulate – incomprehensible, not understandable; not expressed in words
inconclusive – without a proper ending
insensible – not feeling anything
invigorated – filled with energy
iridescent – having many colors
jerry builders – people who build cheaply or poorly
liable – held responsible for, accountable
opium – a narcotic painkiller
pallid – pale, gray
racking – deep, intense
radiating – going out from one central point
rank – foul-smelling
seethe – the act of boiling; an outburst
snivelling – having a runny nose
sordid – unclean, immoral
squalid – offensive to the senses
strychnine – a poison
summit – the top
tapetum – a layer of membranes located in the eye

XXV. The Hunting of the Invisible Man

Vocabulary

assimilated – turned into body tissue; digested

astir – moving around, wide awake

garrison – a fort of soldiers

implements – tools

maiming – disabling by injury

1. What words does Dr. Kemp use to describe the Invisible Man to Dr. Adye, which show that Kemp sees the Invisible Man as a monster?

2. What is the significance of “powdered glass”?

3. In the last paragraph of this chapter, Dr. Kemp says that the Invisible Man “has cut himself off from his kind.” What does he mean by this?

The Epilogue

Vocabulary

algal – related to algae

asseverations – serious claims

corpulent – fat

decorum – politeness

eminent – of high quality

enterprise – a system of activity

parsimony – stinginess, frugality

pensive – thoughtful

protrusion – a bulge; extension

reminiscences – fond memories

sojourned – stayed briefly, visited

solemnly – with great respect and seriousness

subsides – settles down

tinged – having a slight trace

1. Who is the owner-landlord of the inn near Port Stowe and what is his reputation?

2. In what way does Mr. Marvel imitate the Invisible Man every Sunday morning?